over the manufacturing process. LPG cylinders procured by OMCs meet the required quality standards.

LPG cylinders received from distributors/transporters at the bottling plants are mandatorily checked for their quality and genuineness to avoid the entry of fake and outlived cylinders in circulation. On detection of sub-standard/spurious cylinders, these are confiscated and thereafter de-shaped/crushed to prevent their re-entry into circulation.

OMCs have not reported any accident on account of counterfeit cylinders supplied by their distributors during the last year.

Measures to check circulation of expired LPG cylinders

†2896. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many old and expired LPG gas cylinders are in circulation in the market which is totally in contravention of the explosives Act;

(b) whether there is more possibility of accidents by expired and rusted gas cylinders; and

(c) the details of measures taken by Government to check the circulation of old and expired gas cylinders of various companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are procuring LPG cylinders from cylinder manufacturers who are approved by the Oil Industry Technical Committee (OITC) and have valid manufacturing licences from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE). Strict control is exercised by BIS over the manufacturing process. LPG cylinders procured by OMCs meet the required quality standards.

LPG cylinders received from distributors/transporters at the bottling plants are mandatorily checked for their quality and genuineness to avoid

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the entry of fake and outlived cylinders in circulation. On detection of sub-standard/spurious cylinders, these are confiscated and thereafter de-shaped/crushed to prevent their re-entry into circulation.

Long term oil supply contracts

2897. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering long term oil supply contract with oil producing countries as against the present contract tenure of three months to one year;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether such long term contracts will be a factor in a provision for India to export oil to the third countries; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard, alongwith the details of the third countries identified for exporting the oil and the revenue likely to be generated by such export?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The question of longer-term supply contracts was raised by India at the first Round Table of Asian Oil ministers on regional cooperation in the oil & gas economy held in New Delhi on 6th January, 2005 which was attended by Ministers/representatives from Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, China, Korea besides host India. The inaugural address of the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Govt. of India as the Chairman of the Round Table, and the Closing Statement by the Chairman setting out the draft conclusions of the conference are attached as Statement-I and II respectively (*see* below). Public sector oil companies factor in long-term contracts in their purchase arrangements, as appropriate, but it may be noted that long-term contracts only provide for assurance of supplies; prices are linked to periodic variations in international markets.

(c) No, Sir. In any case, India has no surplus oil to export out of the country.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.